



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

M

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/076,754	02/12/2002	Emad S. Alnemri	480140.432D3	2453
500	7590	06/30/2004	EXAMINER	
SEED INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY LAW GROUP PLLC 701 FIFTH AVE SUITE 6300 SEATTLE, WA 98104-7092				MERTZ, PREMA MARIA
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
				1646

DATE MAILED: 06/30/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/076,754	ALNEMRI, EMAD S.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Prema M Mertz	1646

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 1 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 2/12/02
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 28-30 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) _____ is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) 28-30 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All b) Some * c) None of:
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ . |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ . | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ . |

DETAILED ACTION

Claims 1-27 have been canceled on 2/12/02. Amended claims 28-29 (2/12/02) and original claim 30, are under consideration.

Election/Restriction

1. Restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. 121:

Group 1. Claims 28-29, are drawn to a method for evaluating whether test compounds are capable of acting as agonists or antagonists of a protein encoded by a nucleic acid of SEQ ID NO:1, classified in Class 435, subclass 7.1.

Group 2. Claims 28-29, are drawn to a method for evaluating whether test compounds are capable of acting as agonists or antagonists of a protein encoded by a nucleic acid of SEQ ID NO:3, classified in Class 435, subclass 7.1.

Group 3. Claims 28-29, are drawn to a method for evaluating whether test compounds are capable of acting as agonists or antagonists of a protein encoded by a nucleic acid of SEQ ID NO:5, classified in Class 435, subclass 7.1.

Group 4. Claim 30 is drawn to a method of modulating apoptotic activity of a protein encoded by a nucleic acid of SEQ ID NO:1 by contacting said protein with a modulating protein, class and subclass undeterminable.

Group 5. Claim 30, is drawn to a method of modulating apoptotic activity of a protein encoded by a nucleic acid of SEQ ID NO:3 by contacting said protein with a modulating protein, class and subclass undeterminable.

Group 6. Claim 30, is drawn to a method of modulating apoptotic activity of a protein encoded by a nucleic acid of SEQ ID NO:5 by contacting said protein with a modulating protein, class and subclass undeterminable.

Should any one of the Groups from 1-6 be elected, Applicant is required to select one nucleotide sequence. Once one nucleotide sequence is selected, all other sequences will be withdrawn from consideration.

The inventions are distinct, each from the other because of the following reasons:

Inventions I-6 are independent and distinct, each from the other, because the methods are practiced with materially different products which are structurally and chemically different, the novelty of the inventions lying in the products being used in the bioassay and not the processes themselves. The only feature in common in the instant inventions is "a bioassay for evaluating test compounds", which does not constitute the special technical feature lacking from the prior art because this method can be used with a composition other than the instant protein products DR5 or TRAIL-R3. Distinctness is further shown because each of these products in each method can be made and used without any one or more of the other products. The protein products in the different Groups are physically, chemically and biologically distinct from each other, and if patentable would support separate patents. Furthermore, separate search terms would be required for searching the literature, eg. a search of the literature for an association of DR5 with apoptosis would not necessarily reveal art for an association of TRAIL-R3 with apoptosis.

Having shown that these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and have acquired a separate status in the art as shown by their recognized divergent subject matter as defined by MPEP § 808.02, the Examiner has *prima facie* shown a serious burden of search (see MPEP § 803). Therefore, an initial requirement of restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

Art Unit: 1646

Applicant is advised that the response to this requirement to be complete must include an election of the invention to be examined even though the requirement be traversed (37 C.F.R 1.143).

Applicant is reminded that upon the cancellation of claims to a non-elected invention, the inventorship must be amended in compliance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.48(b) if one or more of the currently named inventors is no longer an inventor of at least one claim remaining in the application. Any amendment of inventorship must be accompanied by a diligently-filed petition under 37 C.F.R. § 1.48(b) and by the fee required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(h).

Advisory Information

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Prema Mertz whose telephone number is (571) 272-0876. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 7:00AM to 3:30PM (Eastern time).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Gary Kunz, can be reached on (571) 272-0887.

Official papers filed by fax should be directed to (703) 872-9306. Faxed draft or informal communications with the examiner should be directed to (571) 273-0876.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Prema Mertz
Prema Mertz Ph.D.
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1646
June 15, 2004